

- 18 -

Patent Claims

1. Method for automatically setting up data connections between network subscriber stations in a network of distributed stations, where the network contains at least one recording appliance (12, 17), a data source appliance (11, 16) and a data sink appliance (10, 18), characterized by the following steps:
- 5 user-activated selection of a user interface for the recording appliance (12, 17) on a user interface appliance (10);
- checking for the existing data connections which have been set up for the data sink appliance (10, 18) or the user interface appliance (10) in the network;
- 15 set-up of a connection between the data source appliance (11, 16) for which a connection to the data sink appliance (10, 18) or to the user interface appliance (10) has been set up and the recording appliance (12, 17) in order to assist in the implementation of an instant-recording function on the recording appliance (12, 17).
2. Method according to Claim 1, where the data connection between the data source appliance (11, 16) and the recording appliance (12, 17) is set up only after the recording function on the recording appliance (12, 17) has been activated by the user.
- 25 3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, where the user interface appliance (10) is a display appliance for video images, and the user interface is based on a graphical user interface.
- 30 4. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the data sink appliance (10, 18) is an amplifier device for audio signals.
- 35

- 19 -

5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the recording appliance (12, 17) is a digital video recorder (12) or a digital audio recorder (17).

5 6. Network subscriber station as a user interface appliance for carrying out the method according to one of the preceding claims, having program means (52) for providing user interfaces for controlling network subscriber stations, characterized in that the user
10 interface appliance (10) has further program means which, upon activation of the user interface for the control of a recording appliance (12, 17) in the network by the user, call up checking program means which trigger a check regarding the existing data
15 connections which have been set up for a data sink appliance (10, 18) or the user interface appliance (10) itself and automatically set up a data connection between the data source appliance (11, 16) for which a data connection to the data sink appliance (10, 18) or
20 to the user interface appliance (10) has been set up and the recording appliance (12, 17) in order to assist in the implementation of an instant-recording function on the recording appliance (12, 17) in the network.

25 7. Network subscriber station according to Claim 6, characterized in that the further program means are designed such that they set up the data connection between the data source appliance (11, 16) and the recording appliance (12, 17) in the network only after
30 the recording function on the recording appliance (12, 17) has been activated by the user.

8. Network subscriber station according to Claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the user interface appliance
35 (10) is a display appliance for video images, and the user interface is based on a graphical user interface.

9. Network subscriber station according to one of

- 20 -

Claims 6 to 8, characterized in that the data sink appliance (10, 18) is an amplifier device for audio signals.

- 5 10. Network subscriber station according to one of Claims 6 to 9, characterized in that the recording appliance (12, 17) is a digital video recorder or a digital audio recorder.